

- D. A Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) is established effective April 1, 1997. DROP provides an alternative form of benefit accrual while allowing a Member to continue working for the City. During the DROP period, a DROP Member retains all rights, privileges and benefits of being an active City employee, except as specifically modified in the DROP Plan Document, and is subject to the same terms and conditions of employment including disciplinary actions up to and including termination. The Member continues to be eligible for the active employee Flex Benefits Program for the classification and is not eligible for "retiree" health benefits until such time as the Member completes or terminates the DROP period. Under DROP, a monthly service retirement allowance along with any COLA increases, Supplemental Benefit checks and any adjustments to such payments applicable to retirements effective on the date the Member entered the DROP are deposited into a trust account. These SDCERS benefits are calculated as if the Member were retiring on the date the Member enters the DROP. The Member's contributions to the Retirement System cease. The Member and the City each contribute 3.05% of the Member's salary each pay period that the Member participates in the DROP. The Member's contribution is made on a pre-tax basis pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 414(h)(2). These monies are placed in a trust account and are distributed to the DROP participant upon termination of employment or completion of the DROP period whichever occurs first. No withdrawals may be made from the DROP account until the Member completes or terminates his or her DROP period. Interest will be credited to the Member's DROP account in the same manner and at the same rate that interest is credited to employee CERS accounts. The Member is 100% vested in the DROP from its inception.

A DROP participant who becomes disabled may apply for conversion of their deferred retirement allowance to a disability allowance calculated at the date of entry into the DROP, and the employee shall retain all of the DROP and matching contributions. A Member who participates in DROP irrevocably designates a specific consecutive period of months for participation, not to exceed sixty months. The Member must terminate City service at the end of the designated period.

At the completion of the DROP period, the DROP account will be distributed as a lump sum, or in any other manner permitted by the IRS as soon as those options are developed by the Retirement Administration.

- E. For retirements effective on or after January 1, 1997, the 50% continuance is available to the spouse to whom the Member was married on the date of retirement. The requirement that the member be married to his or her spouse at least one year prior to retirement for the spouse to receive the 50% continuance is eliminated.